

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 12343 221356Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 ACDA-05 OMB-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 12343

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UR, KU, IR

SUBJ: KUWAITI ARMS PURCHASES FROM RUSSIA

REFS: (A) KUWAIT 5286; (B) KUWAIT 5244

1. DURING AUDIENCE DECEMBER 21, SHAH DISCUSSED POSSIBLE KUWAITI ARMS PURCHASES WITH AMBASSADOR. INITIALLY SHAH EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO SELL SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO KUWAIT. HE HAD IN MIND IRANIAN AND EGYPTIAN RECENT EXPERIENCES ON MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTIONS WITH USSR.

2. AS HE HAS DONE IN PAST, SHAH DISCOURSED ON HIS CONVICTION THAT KUWAIT IS ESSENTIALLY INDEFENSIBLE. IT IS TOO SMALL, HE FEELS, TO OFFER REAL RESISTANCE TO DETERMINED AGGRESSORS AND IRAQI FORCES COULD SWEEP OVER KUWAITI TERRITORY IN MATTER OF MINUTES. SHAH FEELS THAT KUWAIT'S ONLY SURE DEFENSE IS MEANINGFUL ALLIANCE WITH COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR PERCEPTIONS OF DANGERS IN THE AREA. IN HIS VIEW IRAN, WHICH HAS STRONGEST MILITARY FORCE IN PERSIAN GULF REGION, IS KUWAIT'S NATURAL ALLY. HE IS IRRITATED THAT KUWAITIS REFUSE SEE SITUATION AS HE DOES AND AGREE TO PRACTICAL SECURITY COOPERATION. INSTEAD, KUWAITIS

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 12343 221356Z

PURSUE WHAT SHAH BELIEVES IS ILLUSORY GOAL OF SELF-DEFENSE

THROUGH EFFORTS TO PURCHASE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT
ABROAD. SHAH SUMMARIZED HIS VIEWS ON KUWAITI DEFENSE
EFFORT BY SAYING, "I HAVE A HARD TIME TAKING THESE PEOPLE
SERIOUSLY."
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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